# Field/Trip Report

**Name/s of reporter/s:** Aberra Adie

**Name/s of traveler/s**: Aberra Adie

**Dates and place of travel: 02 – 06 July 2014 to Lemo**

**Purpose/objective of the travel:**

* To coordinate planting of ILRI-led Africa RISING trials at farmers’ fields in Jawe Kebele
* To liaise with the Lemo woreda experts and researchers from Worabe and Areka research centers for their continued engagements in the ILRI-led Africa RISING researches at Lemo

**Key people contacted (contact details):** Ato Workneh Dubale (Africa RISING Lemo site coordinator), Ato Tamrat (Lemo woreda Office of Agriculture), At Belayneh (Lemo woreda Office of Agriculture), Ato Shimelis Mengistu (Areka Research Center), Ato Ashenafi Mekonnen (Areka Research Center), Ato Fekadu (Worabe Research Center), Ato Lobe Haile (Lemo woreda Livestock Office), Jawe farmers who plant Faba bean-forage trial .

**Discussion/observation/insights:**

Day 1: July 2, 2014: Travel started from Addis in the afternoon and arrived at 18:00hrs at Hosana.

Day 2: July 3, 2014: Met Workneh Dubale (Africa RISING, Lemo site coordinator) and discussed on the current field situations and planting plans. We then went on preparing fertilizers, seeds and other logistics for planting to be done next day.

Day 3: July 4, 2014: Field lay out and planting of the Stepwise Intensification Options for Small-scale Faba Bean / Forage Production Systems trial started at Jawe.

Day 4: July 5, 2014: Field lay out and planting has been completed. A total of 26 farmers planted Faba bean for the upper mentioned trial at Jawe.

2 researchers from Areka, 1 researcher from Worabe, 4 experts from Lemo OoA participated in leading the planting process. All the plots retained for the faba bean planting have been well prepared by the individual farmers. Daily laborers from the villages have been hired to execute the planting of one of the treatments (the improved management practice plot) and the other plot (traditionally managed plot) has been planted by the individual farmers using the farmer’s own pair of oxen and family labor.

Reflections on the planting process and the way forward has been discussed in the evening of July 5 at Lema Hotel with researchers from Areka and Worabe and the site coordinator.

**A way forward/ recommendations/suggestions (if any):** Key suggestions that came out from the discussion include the following:

1. **Assignment of focal persons**

Focal persons from each research center have been identified for the livestock fodder related trials and crop (faba bean/forage) trial. Accordingly:

Shimelis Mengistu from Areka research center agreed to handle the forage field data of the irrigated fodder and faba bean/forage trial and Fekadu from Worabe research center agreed to handle the field data of the crop residue and tree Lucerne trials. Tewodros Demissie from Areka research center has been suggested to follow up the crop related data of all trials. Ashenafi Mekonnen from Areka research center agreed to handle the socio economics part of all the four trials (faba bean/ forage trial, irrigated fodder trial, cop residue trial and tree Lucerne trial).

Researchers from Areka and Worabe pointed out that though there is a copy of the MoU which was signed b/n ILRI and SARI, there is still a need to communicate in writings (with reference to the MoU) to their respective centers about their assignments with Africa RISING so that there is smooth communication whenever they travel for the agreed assignments. Dr. Kindu agreed to handle this at his earliest convenience.

1. **Field activity reporting system**

We agreed that all field activity reports have to be written using Africa RISING report format. When there are technical reports, they can be annexed to the main report. Workneh will forward the report format to the partners.

1. **Research Protocols**: Workneh will forward all the research protols to the partners who are involved in the research execution
2. **Uniformity of local arrangements for execution of all he CG centers trials**

It has been discussed and agreed that it is important for all CG centers to advise the site coordinator when they need to make local arrangements for local partners who involve in their respective research projects. It has been suggested that Dr. Kindu remind the centers regarding this point.

1. **Field plans and schedules**

Projects need to share their field plans and schedules to the local partners ahead of time especially when they need the involvement of local partners so that the partners also include the plan in their time tables and also inform their respective bosses.

1. **Next Steps:**

* Planting of the faba bean/forage trial at Upper Gana (the 2nd Kebele) at Lemo. Shimelis from Areka research center will lead this during Thursday, 10th to Saturday 12th July 2014.
* Irrigated forage trial planting – This trial will be planted at the time of wheat planting which will commence within the coming 5-10 days. Workneh will follow up and notify us with the exact timing. FGD with farmers who were registered for the trial has been planned to be conducted soon when farmers have time after planting season.
* Baseline data collection for faba bean/forage trial and irrigated forage/ sheep fattening trial: Ashenafi from Areka research center will gather inputs from the local researchers on the draft data collection tools shared with him and communicate as soon as possible. Inputs from the local partners will then be built in to the tools and final versions will be communicated back to Ashenafi for planning and execution of the data collection.

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| **Case story:** *Was there anything that struck you as really interesting during the trip? If so, you are encouraged to briefly describe it here (with pictures if possible) so that we can share these insights with the rest of the Africa RISING team and beyond.*  Competition for time of site coordinators and local experts during planting is obviously seen as an issue as planting season is same for both the research and the extension crops. Local researchers however made great effort to treat both the extension and the Africa RISING experiments as important and devoted their extra time to ensure timely plantings. It is both challenging and interesting time for the site coordinators when their real skill of facilitation/coordination is demonstrated and I testify that they can do it effectively. |